

Joint Rules
of the
Legislature

JOINT RULES OF THE TWO HOUSES

DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES

1. In case of a disagreement between the two houses on a bill, resolution, or other matter, if a request is made for a conference by one house and a committee is appointed for that purpose, and the other house grants the request and appoints a committee to confer, such committee shall, at a convenient hour to be agreed upon by their chairmen, meet in conference and state to each other verbally or in writing, as either shall choose, the positions of their respective houses in regard to the matters in disagreement and confer freely thereon.

2. After either house shall have adhered to its disagreement, a bill, resolution, or other matter shall be lost.

3. When a bill or resolution which shall have passed in one house is rejected in the other, notice thereof is to be given to the house in which the same may have passed.

COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO HOUSES

4. When a message is sent from the Senate to the House of Representatives, it shall be announced at the door of the House by the Doorkeeper, and shall be respectfully communicated to the Chair by the person delivering the same.

The same ceremony shall be observed when a message is sent from the House of Representatives to the Senate.

5. All messages between the houses relating to the passage or rejection of any bill, resolution, or other matter shall be on paper and properly addressed to the presiding officer of the house to which the message is sent, and shall be under the signature of the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, as the case may be. All such messages shall be printed in full in the Journal of the house receiving the same.

6. In the transmission of a bill or resolution from one

house to the other, such bill or resolution shall be accompanied by all papers upon which such bill or resolution is founded.

CONSIDERATION OF BILLS IN THE RESPECTIVE HOUSES
AND THE FINAL PASSAGE THEREOF

7. When any Senate bill shall be reached upon the calendar or shall be before the Senate for consideration, it shall be the duty of the President to give the place of such bill on the calendar to any House bill which has been referred to and reported from a committee of the Senate, and which is substantially the same as said Senate bill, or to lay such House bill before the Senate to be considered in lieu of such Senate bill.

8. When any House bill shall be reached upon the calendar or shall be before the House for consideration, it shall be the duty of the Speaker to give the place of such bill on the calendar to any Senate bill which has been referred to and reported from a committee of the House, and which is substantially the same as said House bill, or to lay such Senate bill before the House to be considered in lieu of such House bill.

9. No bill shall be considered, unless it has first been referred to a committee and reported thereon, and no bill shall be passed which has not been presented and referred to and reported from a Committee at least three days before the final adjournment of the Legislature. (Constitution, Article 3, Section 37.) No vote shall be taken upon the passage of any bill within the last twenty-four hours of the session, unless it be to correct an error therein.

9-a. During the first seventy-five (75) calendar days of a regular session it shall not be in order for the presiding officers to lay before the houses, or for the houses to consider, any appropriation bill, except those necessary to provide for the expenses of the Legislature, in emergencies for defense and judgments against the State, until the biennial appropriation bills (i.e., the biennial appropriation bills for the support of the judiciary, the state departments, the higher education institutions, the eleemosynary and reformatory institutions, and the Junior Colleges) have been considered and passed by the two houses and any conference reports thereon approved by the committee, and this Joint

Rule shall have precedence over all other Rules of the two houses dealing with the order and priority of business. This Rule is to assure prior consideration and passage of the biennial appropriation bills required for the support of the several departments of the State government and shall be strictly adhered to, and no appropriation bill for any other purpose shall be considered until the biennial appropriation bills as above enumerated have been passed by both houses. The Finance Committee of the Senate and the Appropriation Committee of the House are hereby required to report said biennial appropriation bills to their houses not later than the sixtieth calendar day of the Regular Session.

[See the Rules of the individual houses for detailed interpretation of the above section.]

10. In reckoning the time within which a bill has been introduced, the date of its first introduction in either house shall govern.

ENROLLING AND SIGNING OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS AND THEIR PRESENTATION TO THE GOVERNOR

11. After a bill shall have passed both houses, it shall be duly enrolled on paper, with all proper endorsements, by the Engrossing and Enrolling Clerk of the House of Representatives or of the Senate, as the bill may have originated in the one or the other house, and properly signed by the presiding officer of each house as required by the Constitution before it shall be presented to the Governor.

[See Sec. 13 and annotation following below.]

12. When bills are enrolled, they may be examined by a joint committee of three Members from the Senate and three Members from the House of Representatives, appointed as a standing committee for that purpose, who shall carefully compare the enrollment with the bills as passed in the houses, and carefully correct any errors that may be discovered in the enrolled bills, and make their report forthwith to the respective houses. Said report shall be accompanied by a copy of said bill as a part of said report, which said copy may be typewritten or printed, partly written and printed, or written and partly printed, and, unless it is a local bill, it shall be printed in the Journal of the house to which said report is made.

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[Actually, enrolled bills in the House are certified in the Committee on Enrolled Bills. In the Senate the Engrossing and Enrolling Clerk handles the matter completely.]

13. After examination and report, each bill shall be signed in the respective houses, first by the presiding officer of the house in which it originates, then by the presiding officer of the other house, in accordance with Article 3, Section 38, of the Constitution.

[The Secretary of the Senate and the Chief Clerk of the House sign enrolled bills.]

After a bill shall have been signed in each house, it shall be presented to the Governor for his approbation by the Engrossing and Enrolling Committee of the house in which it originated. The said committee shall report the day of presentation to the Governor, which time shall be carefully entered on the Journal of the house in which the bill originated.

[If a bill carries an appropriation it is first taken to the Comptroller under the provisions of Sec. 49-a, Art. 3 of the Constitution.]

14. All orders, resolutions and votes which are to be presented to the Governor of the State for his approbation shall also, in the same manner, be previously enrolled, examined and signed, and shall be presented in the same manner and by the same committee as provided in the case of bills.

ELECTIONS BY JOINT VOTE OF THE TWO HOUSES

15. In all elections by joint vote of the two houses of the Legislature, the Senate, upon invitation, will meet the House in its Hall at the hour agreed upon. The President of the Senate shall take a seat at the right of the Speaker, and the Senators shall take seats in front of the Speaker's desk. The Speaker of the House will preside. The names of the Senators shall then be alphabetically called, after which the names of the Representatives shall be called in like manner, and if a quorum of both houses answers to their names, the two houses will proceed with the business for which they have met. The President of the Senate shall first call for nominations by Senators, and the Speaker of the House shall then call for nominations by Representatives. Nominations being made, the names of the Senators shall be called

by the Secretary and their votes recorded by him. The names of the Representatives shall then be called by the Clerk, and their votes recorded by him, and the result shall be handed to and announced by the Speaker. Should a majority be required to elect, and no person receives a majority, the voting shall be repeated until an election is made. After the conclusion of the election for which the two houses have met in Joint Session, the Senate shall retire to its Chamber, and the result of the joint vote shall be entered in the Journal of each house.

16. If a quorum of either house shall fail to attend a Joint Session, or absent themselves therefrom without the permission of such house, the Members of the house so wanting a quorum shall have the right to compel the attendance of the absentees in accordance with its own rules; and, after a reasonable time, if a quorum is not obtained, the Joint Session may be adjourned by the vote of a majority of the Members of either house, which vote shall be taken by the presiding officer of either house, on the motion of any one of its Members, without debate.

17. If no choice shall have been made on the first ballot or vote, at any time thereafter the Joint Session may be adjourned, with or without naming another day for meeting, by a vote of a majority of either house, which vote shall be taken by the presiding officer of either house, on the motion of any one of its Members, without debate.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

18. In all conferences between the Senate and the House by committee, the number of committeemen from each house shall be five (5), and all votes on matters of differences shall be taken by each committee separately, and it shall require a majority of each committee present concurring upon the matter in dispute to determine it. The reports of all conference committees must be signed by a majority of each committee of the conference.

NOTIFICATION OF DEFEATED MEASURE

19. When a bill, joint or concurrent resolution has been defeated in the Senate or in the House (or defeated in a committee of the respective houses), the Secretary of the

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Senate or the Chief Clerk of the House, as the case may be, shall immediately notify the other house of the defeat of said bill or resolution and transmit a copy of the caption of such defeated bill or resolution.

[See the Rules of the individual houses for interpretation of consideration of "defeated" bills.]

HOUSE AND SENATE BILL DAYS

20. On calendar Wednesday and Thursday only of each week House bills on their third and second readings, respectfully, shall be taken up and considered in the Senate until disposed of; and in case a House bill should be pending at adjournment on Thursday, it shall go over to the succeeding calendar Wednesday as unfinished business, provided, however, this rule as to such pending business at adjournment on calendar Thursday may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the Senate to permit the continued consideration of such pending business.

21. On calendar Wednesday and Thursday only of each week, Senate bills on their third and second readings, respectively, shall be taken up and considered in the House until disposed of; and in case a Senate bill should be pending at adjournment on Thursday, it shall go over to the succeeding calendar Wednesday as unfinished business; provided, however, this rule as to such pending business at adjournment on calendar Thursday may be suspended by two-thirds vote of the House to permit the continued consideration of such pending business.